

CARRIER SHEET WITH INTEGRATED DETACHABLE DIE-CUT
CARD HAVING A MAGNET MATERIAL BACKING

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a carrier sheet comprised of a printed paper sheet having printed matter thereon and a laminated die-cut card formed integral therewith with the card having a thin, flexible magnetic material backing and wherein the carrier sheet is capable of being personalized in a high-speed laser printer.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] Refrigerator decals or cards having magnet backings laminated thereto for attachment to refrigerators or other metal surface are known. These decals are used mostly for advertising purposes. However, these decals are expensive to produce as the design thereon is usually made by a silk screen process or spot color printed. Such decals are also usually mailed out to intended users by glue-tipping them to a letter or they are simply inserted in an envelope together with a letter. The assembly of these mailers with these decals is usually done by hand, which increases the cost.

[0003] With the prior art processes, when it is necessary to produce a high volume of these decals, there is very little cost reduction. Also, it is very costly to change any information printed on these decals as it is required to change the plates in the print presses. Also, matching name and address on magnet decals, with the names on letters and envelopes is manual, costly and prone to error. Matching coloring graphic quality from magnet decal, letterhead and envelope is virtually impossible. With the prior art, the manufacturing process would comprise the production of an envelope, the production of a letterhead,

the production of a magnet decal, letter lazering, assembly and insertion. This results in long cycle times, errors in the matching, high waste levels and often result in short shipments.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0004] It is a feature of the present invention to provide a carrier sheet having an integrated die-cut card provided with a magnet backing patch and method of manufacturing same and which substantially overcomes the above disadvantages of the prior art.

[0005] It is another feature of the present invention to provide a carrier sheet, such as a mailer with an integrated card having a magnet backing which is thin, lightweight and wherein the printing in the mailer and on the card is high quality offset printing.

[0006] Another feature of the present invention is provide a carrier sheet as above-described wherein the same quality of printing appears on the document and envelope and wherein the envelope can be formed integral with the mailer paper sheet.

[0007] Another feature of the present invention is to provide a carrier sheet as above-described which eliminates matching errors between the letter and information printed on the front face of the integral magnet card.

[0008] Another feature of the present invention is to provide a carrier sheet as above-described wherein the production thereof is cost effective, especially in high volumes and where text changes are required.

[0009] Another feature of the present invention is to provide a carrier sheet as above-described which can be used in high-speed laser printers to personalize the documents and wherein customer variable imaging on laser, ink jet or impact printing is achievable.

[0010] Another feature of the present invention is to provide a carrier sheet as above-described and wherein the card front face is laminated with a polyester film.

[0011] Another feature of the present invention is to provide a method of manufacture of a carrier sheet as above-described and wherein the die-cut extends only partly within the magnet material of the magnet patch to form a burstable region in the uncut region of the magnet material along the die-cut and thereby greatly prolonging the wear of the cutting die and preventing the die-cut card from disengaging with the carrier sheet in high speed printers.

[0012] According to the above features, from a broad aspect, the present invention provides a carrier sheet comprising a printed paper sheet having printed matter on at least a front face thereof. The printed matter contains card information printed in a card area. A polyfilm patch is adhered over the card area and over the card information printed thereon. A thin flexible patch of magnet material is adhesively secured on a rear face of the paper sheet and extends over the card area. A die-cut is made in the sheet and delineates the contour of the card area and extends through the polyfilm patch and paper sheet and into the patch of magnet material. Holding means are formed along the die-cut to hold the die-cut card in the sheet.

[0013] According to a further broad aspect of the present invention, the die-cut extends only partly into the magnet material to form a burstable region in the uncut region of the magnet material along the die-cut to constitute the holding means.

[0014] According to a still further broad aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of manufacturing a carrier sheet comprised of a printed paper sheet having an integrated detachable die-cut card having a magnet material backing. The method comprises printing on

at least a front face of the paper sheet information matter at predetermined locations and card information in a card area. A polyfilm patch is secured over the card area and card information printed thereon. A thin flexible patch of magnet material is secured on a rear face of the paper sheet and extends over the card area. A delineated contour of the card area is die-cut from the front face. The die-cut extends through the polyfilm patch and paper sheet and into the patch of magnet material. The die-cut may also form holding tabs in the delineated contour.

[0015] According to a further broad aspect of the present invention the method also comprises die-cutting only partly into the patch of magnet material to form a burstable region in the uncut region of the magnet material along the die-cut.

[0016] According to a still further broad aspect the mailer and method comprises folding the sheet into two or more panels to form a mailer with the personalized information containing an address on an outer face of one of the panels and with the die-cut card being located in another panel, and wherein the panels are secured to one another by adhesive strips, tabs or other fastening means.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0017] A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

[0018] FIG. 1 is a plan view of a carrier sheet mailer constructed in accordance with the present invention;

[0019] FIG. 2 is a fragmented plan view showing the rear face of the mailer where the magnet patch is adhesively secured;

[0020] FIG. 3 is a fragmented view of a carrier sheet front face showing the further ornamental shape of the die-cut card;

[0021] FIG. 4 is an enlarged fragmented section view illustrating the die-cut extending only partly within the magnet material to form a burstable region along the die-cut;

[0022] FIG. 5 is an enlarged fragmented front view of the carrier sheet showing the holding tabs in the die-cut;

[0023] FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing a carrier sheet constructed in accordance with the present invention and comprised of three panels which are folded together to form an integral envelope for the mailer; and

[0024] FIG. 7 is a perspective view showing the carrier sheet of the present invention formed of two panels which are secured together by an adhesive tab to also form an integral envelope for the mailer.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0025] Referring now to the drawings, and more particularly to Figures 1 and 2, there is shown generally at 10, a carrier sheet, herein a mailer constructed in accordance with the present invention. It is comprised of a printed paper sheet 11 which contains printed matter 12 describing a service or otherwise and associated with card information printed matter 13 printed in a card area 14.

[0026] Referring now additionally to Figure 4, it can be seen that a polyfilm patch 15 is adhesively secured over the card area and over the card information 13 printed in the card area. The polyfilm patch is comprised of a thin polyethylene sheet 16 and an adhesive 17 which bonds the polyethylene film to the front face 18 of the paper sheet 11 over the card area.

[0027] Referring additionally to Figure 2, it can be seen that a thin flexible patch of magnet material 19 is adhesively secured on a rear face 20 of the paper sheet 11 and extends over the card area 14. The magnet material patch 19 comprises a thin layer or sheet 21 of magnetized iron oxide material provided with an adhesive backing 22 to secure same to the rear face 20 of the paper sheet 11.

[0028] With additional reference now to Figure 5, it can be seen that a die-cut 23 delineates the contour of the card 25 formed integral with the paper sheet. The cutting die may have slits, as is well known in the art, to form holding tabs 24 along the die-cut, see Figure 5, and these are usually disposed in the corners of the rectangular shaped card herein shown, although they can be located elsewhere. These tabs constitute one example of a holding means. Instructional information 26 may be printed below the polyfilm patch to instruct the user as to how to detach the card from the mailer. It will pop out by applying finger pressure.

[0029] Figure 3 illustrates a die-cut card 25' having a different ornamental shape. In fact these cards or ornaments may have a multitude of shapes and uses.

[0030] With reference now more specifically to Figure 4, there is shown a preferred embodiment of how the die-cut knife 30 penetrates through the mailer to delineate the card 25. As hereinshown the knife tip 28 only extends partly through the magnet film sheet 21 whereby to form a burstable region 29 in the uncut region between the tip 28 of the die-cut knife 30 and the outer surface 27 of the magnetic film sheet 21. This burstable region may be in the range of 6/1000 of an inch. The burstable region constitutes another form of holding means wherein it is not necessary to form holding tabs. The reason the die does not penetrate the magnet film is to prolong the life of the die-cut knife

permitting such carrier sheets to be formed in high speed machines and in large quantities without having to frequently replace the die-cut knife which is a very expensive part of such machines. It is also pointed out that this carrier sheet can be personalized in a computerized high-speed printing machine.

[0031] As shown in Figures 6 and 7, the mailer sheet 11 may be printed on the rear face 20 thereof to personalize the mailer to a recipient whose name is printed, such as 31 on the rear panel. The carrier sheet as shown in Figure 6 is folded into three panels with the bottom panel 32, containing the card 25, being folded onto the intermediate panel 33 and then the top panel 34 is folded thereover. The folded panels may be secured together by an adhesive strip 35 which may have been applied on the front face 18 of the carrier sheet and along the upper edge 36 thereof.

[0032] Figure 7 shows another form of envelope mailer and wherein the printed paper sheet 11 is folded into two sections to form a back panel 37 and a top panel 38. An adhesive tab 39 may be secured along an outer edge of either the front or rear panels to secure the panels together. There are many other ways to secure the panel together, and this is also well known in the art. The rear panel 37 would contain the detachable card 25. Again, the rear face 20 of the paper sheet 11 contains a personalized address 40 of an intended recipient. There are of course many other envelope configurations that can be achieved and many ways of forming an envelope integral with the mailer and it is within the ambit of the present invention to cover all these.

[0033] Briefly summarizing the method of manufacturing of the carrier sheet, it consists of printing at least the front face of the paper sheet with information matter at predetermined locations and also printing card information in the card area 14. The polyfilm patch and the thin

flexible magnet patch may be applied by the same machine in a single run of the film sheet or may be done at separate stages or in separate machines. The die-cutting is then effected in the manner as above-described. You now have a mailer with an integrated card having a magnet backing and this mailer can be sent to intended recipients in envelopes. On the other hand, the mailer can be fed through a high-speed computer control laser printing machine (not shown, but obvious to a person skilled in the art) where the paper sheet can be personalized to a recipient, folded into two or more panels and also adhesively secured with a stamp printed thereon ready for mailing. As above-described, in order to greatly prolong the use of the cutting die, and also to provide good retention of the die-cut card for processing in a high-speed printer, it is preferable that the die-cut only extends partly into the patch of magnet material to form a burstable region in the uncut region of the magnet material along the die-cut. This prevents wear on the tip of the knife when passing through the material and striking a hard backing surface. By pushing the card out of the paper form, the magnet material will burst along the die-cut to create a clean, sharp cut along the outer edges of the card.

[0034] It is within the ambit of the present invention to cover any obvious modifications of the preferred embodiment described herein provided such modifications fall within the scope of the appended claims.